DELIVERED ON MONDAY NIGHT, REFORE THE NEW YORK HISTORICAL SOCIETY.

NIBLO'S GARDEN, which is said to be capable of containing three thousand five hundred persons, was densely thronged on Monday evening last, from the parquet to the uppermost gallery, by ladies and gen-tlemen, assembled to hear the address of the Hon. Daniel Webster before the New York Historical Society, whose forty-eighth anniversary was thus

brilliantly celebrated. The officers of the Society, with the Orator of the evening, and invited guests of distinction, occupied seats upon the stage. Among those thus conspicu-ously placed were Washington Irving and Geo. BANCROFT, Esqs., and the Rev. Drs. Spring, Wain-wright, and De Witt, by the last named of whom the exercises were opened with prayer.

LUTHER BRADISH, Esq., President of the Society then introduced Mr. WEBSTER to the audience, and when the great Statesman advanced he was greeted by such enthusiastic cheers as (remarks the Commercial Advertiser) must have demonstrated to him the earnest admiration and regard which are entertained for him by New Yorkers. Acknowledging this applause with dignity-

Mr. WEBSTER proceeded to read the subjoined address, which fastened the unwearied and delighted attention of the audience for nearly two hours, interrupted only by occasional bursts of unrestrainable applause:

The object of your association, gentlemen, like that of others of similar character, is highly important. Historical societies are auxiliary to historical compositions. They collect the materials from which the great narrative of events is, in due time, to be framed; the transactions of fore, are the exemplar of human nature in general; Pope's public bodies, local histories, memoirs of all kinds, statistics, laws, ordinances, public debates and discussions, works of periodical literature and the public journals, whether of political events, of commerce, literature, or the arts, all find their places in the collections of historical societies. But these collections are not history; they are only elements for history. History is a higher name, and imports literary productions of the first order.

It is presumptuous in me, whose labors and studies have been so long devoted to other objects, to speak, in the presence of those whom I see before me, of the dignity and importance of history, in its just sense; and yet I find pleasure in breaking in upon the course of daily pursuits, and indulging for a time in reflections upon topics of literature, and in the remembrance of the great examples of it in dignity and importance. The power of the Epic consists in the narrative of real or supposed events, and the representation of real, or at least natural, characters; and history, in its noblest examples, is an account of occurrences in which great events are commemorated, and distinguished men appear as agents and actors. Epic poetry and the drama are but narratives, the former partly and the latter wholly in the form of dialogue; but their characters and personages are usually the creations of the

imagination.

Severe history sometimes assumes the dialogue or dramatic form, and, without departing from truth, is embellished by supposed colloquies or speeches, as in the production of that great master, Titus Livius, or that greater

master still, Thucydides.

The drawing of characters, consistent with general truth and fidelity, is no violation of historical accuracy;

it is only an illustration or an ornament.

When Livy ascribes an appropriate speech to one of his historical personages, it is only as if he had portrayed the same character in language professedly his own. Lord Clarendon's presentation, in his own words, of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland, one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland one of the highest and most successful of the character of Lord Falkland one of the highest and most successful of the character of the character of Lord Falkland one of the highest and most successful of the character of the chara cessful efforts of personal description, is hardly different from what it would have been if he had put into the mouth of Lord Falkland a speech exhibiting the same opinions, in the laws of our neighbors, for it has served as a model to others, but is original at Athens. And this our form, as committed not to the few, but to the whole body of the people, is mitted not to the few, but to the whole body of the people, is and the same attachments. Homer describes the actions of personages, which, if not real, are so imagined as to be conformable to the general characteristics of men in the heroic ages. If his relation be not historically true, it is such nevertheless, as, making due allowance for poetical embellishment, might have been true. And in Milton's great epic, which is so almost entirely made up of narratives and speeches, there is nothing repugnant to the general conception which we form of the characters of those

whose sentiments and conduct he portrays.

But history, while it illustrates and adorns, confines itself to facts, and to the parrative of actual events. It is not far from truth to say that well-written and classic history is the epic of real life. It places the actions of men in an attractive and interesting light; rejecting what is improper and superfluous, it fills its picture with real,

just, and well-drawn images.

And the dignity of history consists in reciting events

with truth and accuracy, and in presenting human agents and their actions in a clear and impartial light. The first element in history, therefore, is truthfulness; and this truthfulness must be presented in a concrete form. Classical history is not a memoir. It is not a rude collection of acts, occurrences, and dates. It adopts nothing that is not true, but then it does not embrace all minor truths and all minor transactions. It is a composition, a pro-duction, which has unity of design, like a work of statuary or of painting, and keeps constantly in view one great end or result. Its parts, therefore, are to be properly adjusted and well proportioned.

The historian is an artist as true to fact as other artists are to nature; and, though he may sometimes embellish, he never misrepresents; he may occasionally, perhaps, color too highly, but the truth is still visible through the lights and shades. This unity of design seems essential to all great productions. With all the variety of the Iliad, Homer kept the wrath of Achilles, and its consequences, always in view; when he sang of the exploits of othe heroes, they were silently subordinated to the son of Pe-Still more remarkable is the unity, in variety, of the Odyssey, the character of which is much more complicated, but all the parts are artfully adapted to each other, and they have a common centre of interest and ac-tion—the great end being the restoration of Ulysses to his native Ithaca. Virgil, in the Eneid, sang of nothing but the man and his acts who brought the Trojan gods to Italy, and laid the foundation of the imperial walls of Rome; and Milton of nothing but

"Man's first disobedience, and the fruit Of that forbidden tree whose mortal taste Brought death into the world."

And the best historical productions of ancient and of leading thought or purpose.

It has been said by Lord Bolingbroke that "history is philosophy teaching by example;" and before Bolingbroke,

Shakspeare has said : There is a history in all men's lives Figuring the nature of the times deceased; The which observed, a man may prophesy, and alm, of the main chance of things, There is a history in all men's lives

With a near aim, of the main chance of things,
As yet not come to life; which in their
Seeds, and weak beginnings, lie entreasured.
Such things become the hatch and brood of time:
And, by the necessary form of this,
King Richard might create a perfect guess
That great Northumberland, then false to
Him, would of that seed grow to a greater falseness:
Which should not find a ground to rest upon,
Unless or you."

Unless on you."
" Are those things, then, necessities?

Then let us meet them like necessities.' And a wiser man than either Bolingbroke or Shakspeare

"The thing that hath been, it is that which shall be; and that which is done, is that which shall be done; and there is no new thing under the sun."

These sayings are all just, and they proceed upon the idea that the essential characteristics of human nature are the same every where, and in all ages.

the same every where, and in all ages.

This doubtless is true: and, so far as history presents the qualities and propensities of human nature, it does teach by example. Bolingbroke adds, with remarkable teach by example. Bolingbroke adds, with remarkable power of expression, "that the school of example is the world, and its great masters or teachers are history and

age, both in his individual and collective capacity; there comes such a change of circumstances, so many new obcomes such a change of circumstances, so many new objects of desire and aversion, and so many new and powerful motives spring up in his mind, that the conduct of men in one age, or under one state of circumstances, is no sure and precise indication of what will be their conduct when times and circumstances alter; so that the example of the times and circumstances alter; so that the example of the precise indication of what will be their conduct when times and circumstances alter; so that the example of the precise indication of what will be their conduct when times and circumstances alter; so that the example of the precise indication of what will be their conduct when the precise indication of what will be their conduct when the conduct of the precise in the results of the precise indication of what will be their conduct when the conduct of the con past, before it can become a useful instructor to the preent, must be reduced to elementary principles in human nature, freed from the influence of conditions which were temporary, and have changed, and applied to the same principles under new relations, with a different degree of knowledge, and the impulses arising from the altered state

and glory; and ambition and love, revenge, and the hope of renown arealso elements in the character of civilized of barbarism hardly instructs us as to the manner in which they will exhibit themselves in a cultivated period

that is to say, in all countries and at all times he feels the tie which connects him with an invisible power. It is true, indeed, and it is a remarkable fact in the history of mankind, that in the very lowest stage of hulization, surrounded with every thing luxurious in life, and with all the means of human knowledge, the idea of an unseen and superior Governor of the Universe is most likely to be equally doubted or disregarded.

The lowest of human, savage existence, and the intel-

lectual and refined atheism, such as we have seen exhibited in our day, seem to be strangely coincident in this respect, though it is from opposite causes and influences that these classes are led to doubt or deny the existence of a Supreme Power. But both these are exceptions to the general current of human thought and the general

conviction of our nature.

Man is naturally religious; but then his religion takes its character from his condition, his degree of knowledge, and his associations; and therefore it is true that the religious feeling which operates in one state of society, and under one degree of light and knowledge, is not a safe example to prove its probable influence and operation under circumstances essentially different. So that, when we regard history as our instructor in the development of the perceptions and character of men, and in the motives which actuate them, there comes a concomitant rush of altered circumstances, which are all to be considered and

regarded. History, therefore, is an example which may teach the general principles of human nature, but does not in-struct us greatly in its various possible developments.

What Dr. Johnson said, in his comparison of Dryden and Pope, is not inapplicable to this topic. "Dryden," said he, "knew more of man in his general nature, and of human nature as modified in particular relations and circumstances; and what is true of individual man is true also of society and government.

The love of liberty, for instance, is a passion and sentiment which existed in intense force in the Grecian republics, and in the early history of Rome. It exists now, chiefly and first of all, on that portion of the western continent in which we live. Here it burns with heat and with splender beyond all Grecian and all Roman example. It is not a light in the temple of Minerva; it is not a vestal flame in Rome: it is the light of the sun; it is the illustration of Minerva. mination of all the constellations. Earth, air, and ocean, and all the heavens above us, are filled with its glorious illumination; and therefore, though the passion and the sentiment are the same, yet he who would reason from Grecian liberty, or from Roman freedom, to our intelligent American liberty, would be holding a farthing candle

the orb of day.

The magnificent funeral oration of Pericles over those historic art. Well written history must always be the result of genius and taste, as well as of attainment. It stands next to epic poetry in the productions of the human mind. If it requires less of invention than that, it is not behind the requirement of the first contains and ardent attachment to country, which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country, which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country, which is a strong and ardent attachment to country, which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country which bits a strong and ardent attachment to country who fell in the Peloponnesian war is one of the grandest oratorical productions of antiquity. It contains senti-ments and excites emotions congenial to the minds of all lovers of liberty, in all regions and at all times. It exhibits a strong and ardent attachment to country which are the productions of the productions of the productions of antiquity. true patriots always feel; an undaunted courage defence, and a resolution and a willingness to pledge and hazard all for the maintenance of liberty. I cannot deny myself the pleasure of quoting a few passages from that celebrated address:

"I shall therefore begin first," said Pericles, " with our for fathers, since both justice and decency require we should on this occasion bestow on them an honorable remembrance. In this our country they kept themselves always firmly settled, and through their valor handed it down free to every since-succeeding generation. Worthy indeed of praise are they, and yet more worthy are our immediate fathers; since, enlarging heir own inheritance into the extensive empire which we no ossess, they bequeathed that, their work of toil, to us the ons. Yet, even these successes, we ourselves here present, we who are yet in the strength and vigor of our days, have nobly improved, and have made such provision for this our Athens that now it is all-sufficient in itself to answer every

exigence of war and of peace.
"But by what methods we have risen to this height of glory and power, by what polity and by what conduct we are thus aggrandized, I shall first endeavor to show; and then proceed to the praise of the deceased. These, in my opinion, can be no impertinent topics on this occasion; the discussion them must be beneficial to this numerous company of Ath

called a democracy. How different soever in a private capacity, we all enjoy the same general equality which our laws are fitted to preserve, and superior honors just as we excel. The public administration is not confined to a particular family, but is attainable only by merit. Poverty is not a hindrance,

since whoever is able to serve his country meets with no obstacles to preferment from his first obscurity.

"The offices of the State we go through without obstructions from one another, and live together in the mutual endearments of private life without suspicions; not angry with a neighbor for following the bent of his own humor, nor putting on that countenance of discontent which using though it can on that countenance of discontent which pains though it cannot punish; so that in private life we converse without diffi dence or damage, whilst we dare not on any account offend against the public, through the reverence we bear to the ma-gistrates and the laws; chiefly to those enacted for the redress of the injured, and to those unwritten laws a breach of which

is regarded as disgrace.
"We want no Homer to be the herald of our praise; "We want no Homer to be the herald of our praise; no poet to deck off a history with the charms of verse, where the opinion of exploits must suffer by a strict relation. Every sea has been opened by our fleets, and every land hath been penetrated by our armies, which have every where left behind them eternal monuments both of our enmity and our friend-

As for you who now survive them, you may well pray for a better fortune, but you must nevertheless consider it your duty to preserve the same spirit and warmth of courage against your enemies; not judging of the expediency of this from a mere harangue where any man, indulging in a flow of words, may tell you, what you yourselves know as well as he, how many advantages there are in fighting valiantly against your enemies; but rather making the daily increasing grandeur of this community the object of your thoughts, and growing quite enamored of it. And when it really appears great in your ap-prehensions, think again, that this grandeur was acquired by brave and valiant men; by men who knew their duty, and in the moments of action were sensible of shame and feared reproach; who, whenever their attempts were unsuccessful, thought it dishonor that their country should stand in need of any thing their valor could do for it, and so made it the most

any thing their valor could do for h, and so made of the glorious present.

"Restowing their lives on the public, they have every one received a praise that will never decay, a sepulchre that will always be most illustrious; not that in which their bones lie mouldering, but that in which their fame is preserved, to be on every occasion, when honor is the theme of either word or act, eternally remembered. This whole earth is the sepulchre of illustrious men; nor is it the inscriptions on the columns of their native soil alone that show their merit, but the memoria of them, better than all inscriptions, in every foreign nation, reposited more durably in universal remembrance than on their own tomb. From this very moment, emulating these noble patterns, placing your happiness in liberty, and liberty in valor, be prepared to encounter all the dangers of war."

Gentlemen, does not every page, paragraph, and sen-tence of what I have read go home to all our hearts, carmodern times have been written with equal fidelity to one leading thought or purpose.

It has been said by Lord Bolingbroke that "history is Is it Athens, or America? Is Athens or America the theme of these immortal strains? Was Pericles speaking of his own country, as he saw it or knew it; or was he gazing upon a bright vision then two thousand years before him, which we see in reality, and as he saw in pros-

> But the contests of Sparta and Athens, what were they in lasting importance, and in their bearing on the desti-nies of the world, in comparison with that ever-memorable struggle which separated the colonies from the dominion of Europe?
>
> How different the result which betided Athens from that

> which crowned the glorious efforts of our ancestors; and therefore, this renowned oration of Pericles, what is it in comparison with an effort of historical eloquence which should justly set forth the merits of the heroes and the martyrs of the American Revolution? And the liberty of Athens and of the other Grecian republics, being founded in pure democracies, without any principle of representa-tion, was fitted only for small States. The exercise of popular power in a purely democratic form cannot be extended over countries of large extent, because in such countries all cannot assemble in the same place to vote directly upon laws and ordinances, and other public questions. But the principle of representation is expan-sive; it may be enlarged, if not infinitely, yet indefinitely, to meet new occasions, and embrace new regions. While therefore, the love of liberty was the same, and its gene ral principle the same, in the Grecian republics as with us, yet not only were forms essentially different, but that also was wanting which we have been taught to consider as indispensable to its security; that is, a fixed, settled as indispensable to its security; that is, a fixed, section, definite, fundamental law, or constitution, imposing limitations and restraints equally on governors and governed. We may therefore inhale all the fulness and greatness of

ners and pursuits of men.

There is an imperfection, both in ancient and moder tories, and those of the best masters, in this respect. While they recite public transactions, they omit, in a great degree, what belong to the civil, social, and domestic gress of men and nations. There is not, so far as I know, a good civil history of Rome, nor is there an account of

tic, the achievements of arms, and national alliances, fill up the recorded greatness of the Roman Empire.

It is very remarkable that, in this respect, Roman literature is far more deficient than that of Greece. Aristophanes, and other Grecian comic writers, have scenes richly filled with the delineation of the lives and manners of their own people. But the Roman imitators of the Grecian stage gave themselves up to the reproduction of Grecian stage gave themselves up to the reproduction of foreign characters on their own stage, and presented in their dramas Grecian manners also, instead of Roman manners. How much wiser was Shakspeare, who enchained the attention of his audiences, and still enchains the attention of the whole Teutonic race, by the presentation of English manners and English history? Falstaff, Justice Shallow, and Dogberry are not shrubs of foreign growth transplanted into the pages of Shakspeare, but genuine productions of the soil, the creations of his own homebred fancy. bred fancy.
Mr. Banks has written a civil history of Rome, but it

cems not to have answered the great end which it pro-

The labors of Niebuhr, Arnold, and Merivale have ac complished much toward furnishing the materials of such history, and Becker, in his Gallus, has drawn a picture not uninteresting of the private life of the Romans at the commencement of the empire.

I know nothing of the fact, but I once had an intima-

I know nothing of the fact, but I once had an intima-tion, that one of the most distinguished writers of our time and of our country has had his thoughts turned to this subject for several years. If this be so, and the work, said to be in contemplation, be perfected, it will be true, as I have no doubt, that the civil history of the great re-public of antiquity will have been written, not only with thorough research, but also with elegance of style and chaste, classical illustration, by a citizen of the great re-public of modern times. I trust that when this work shall appear, if it shall appear, we shall not only see the Roman consul and the Roman general, the comitia and the forum, but that we shall also see Roman hearths and altars, the Roman matron at the head of her household, Roman children in their schools of instruction, and the whole of Roman life fully presented to our view, so far as the materials, now existing in separate and special works, afford

the means.

It is in our day only that the history and progress of the civil and social institutions and manners of England have become the subjects of particular attention.

Sharon Turner, Lingard, and, more than all, Mr. Hallam, have laid this age, and all following ages, under the heaviest obligations by their labors in this field of literary composition; nor would I separate from them the writings composition; nor would I separate from them the writings of a most learned and eloquent person whose work on English history is now in progress, nor the author of the Pictorial History of England. But there is still wanting a full, thorough, and domestic social account of our English ancestors; that is, a history which shall trace the progress of social life in the intercourse of man with man; the advance of arts; the various changes in the labits and occupations of individuals; and those improvements in domestic life which have attended the condition and policysted the circumstances of man in the large of and meliorated the circumstances of men in the lapse of ages. We still have not the means of learning, to any great extent, how our English ancestors, at their homes, and in their houses, were fed, and lodged, and clothed, and what were their daily employments. We want a history of firesides; we want to know when kings and queens exchanged beds of straw for beds of down, and ceased to breakfast on beef and beer. We wish to see more, and know more, of the changes which took place, from age to age, in the homes of England, from the castle and the paace down to the humblest cottage. Mr. Henry's book, so far as it goes, is not without its utility; but it stops too soon; and, even in regard to the period which it em-braces, it is not sufficiently full and satisfactory in its par-

The feudal ages were military and agricultural, but the The feutial ages were mintary and agricultural, but the splendor of arms in the history of the times monopolized the genius of writers; and perhaps materials are not now abundant for forming a knowledge of the essential industry of the country. He would be a public benefactor who should instruct us in the modes of cultivation and tillage prevailing in England from the conquest down, and in the advancement of manufactures from their ineption in the time of Henry IVth to the period of their considerable development two centuries afterward.

There are two converses of information on these subjects.

There are two sources of information on these subjects which have never yet been fully explored, and which, nevertheless, are overflowing fountains of anowledge. mean the statutes and the proceedings of the courts of law. At an early period of life I recurred, with some degree of attention, to both these sources of information; not so much for professional purposes as for the elucidation of the progress of society. I acquainted myself with the object, and purposes, and substance of every published statute in British legislation. These shewed me what the Legislature of the country was concerned in from time to time and from year to year. And I learned from the reports of controversies in the courts of law what were the pursuits and occupations of individuals, and what the objects which most carnestly engaged attention. I hardly know any thing which more repays research than studies of this kind. We learn from them what pursuits We see, too, in a most interesting manner, the ingenious devices resorted to to break the thraldom of personal We see the beginning of manufacturing ests, and at length bursts upon us the full splender of the

commercial age.
Littleton, Coke, Plowden, what are they? How their learning fades away and becomes obsolete when Helt, and Somers, and Mansfield arise, catching themselves, and in-fusing all around them, the influences and the knowledge which commerce had shed upon the world!

Our great teachers and examples in the historical art are, doubtless, the eminent historians of the Greek and Roman ages. In their several ways they are the masters to whom all succeeding times have looked for instruction and improvement. They are the models which have stood the test of time, and, like the glorious creations in mar-ble of Grecian genius, have been always admired and never surpassed.

We have our favorites in literature as well as other things, and I confess that, among the Grecian writers, my estimate of Herodotus is great. His evident truthfulness, his singular simplicity of style, and his constant respecand veneration for sacred and divine things, win my gard. It is true that he sometimes appears credulous, which caused Aristotle to say of him that he was a storyteller. But, in respect to this, two things are to be remarked—the one is that he never avers as a fact tha which rests on the accounts of others; the other is, that all subsequent travels and discoveries have tended to con-firm his fidelity. From his great qualities as a writer, as well as from the age in which he lived, he is justly denominated the "Father of History." Herodotus was a con-scientious narrator of what he saw and heard. In his manscientious narrator of what he saw and heard. In his hauner there is much of the old epic style; indeed his work
may be considered as the connecting link between the epic
legend and political history; truthful, on the one hand,
since it was a genuine history; but, on the other, conceived and executed in the spirit of poetry, and not the
profounder spirit of political po profounder spirit of political philosophy. It brenthes a reverential submission to the Divine will, and recognises distinctly the governing hand of Providence in the affairs of men. But, upon the whole, I am compelled to regard Thucydides as the greater writer. Thucydides was equal ly truthful, but more conversant with the motives and by truthful, but more conversant with the motives and character of men in their political relations. He took infinite pains to make himself thoroughly acquainted with transactions that occurred in his own day, and which became the subject of his own narrative. It is saft even that persons were employed by him to obtain information from both the belligerent Powers for his use while writing the history of the Peloponnesian war.

He was one of the most eminent citizens of the Athenian Republic, educated under the institutions of Solon and

Republic, educated under the institutions of Solon, and trained in all the political wisdom those institutions had developed, in the two centuries since their establishment. A more profound intellect never applied itself to histori-cal investigation: a more clear-sighted and impartial judge of human conduct never deal, with the fortuges and

acts of political communities.

The work of Herodotus is graphic, fluent, dramatic, and ethical in the highest degree; but it is not the work of a free citizen of a free Republic, personally experienced in the conduct of its affairs. The History of the Peloponnesian War, on the other hand, could only have been produced by a man who added to vast genius deep personal insight into the workings of various public institutions.

As Thucydides himself says, his history was written not for the entertainment of the moment, but to be "a pos-

session forever." There can, it seems to me, be no reasonable doubt that the first works by which man expressed his thoughts and feelings in an orderly composition, were essentially poeti-cal. In the earliest writings of which we know any thing with distinctness, we have an union or mingling of poetry and fact, embodying the traditions and history of the people among which they arose.

Like other intellectual culture, this form of history ap-

cared first in the East, and, from the days of Moses and Joshua down to our own times, it has there retained substantially the same character. I mean it has been a rewhen not only is the main channel full, but all the tributary. In Greece we may observe originally the same state of things: but the two forms of composition soon became separated, though the Greek historical art, when highest, never lazes all its relations to the epic.

The earliest Greek poets were religious and historical

A savage has the passions of ambition, revenge, love, and glory; and ambition and love, revenge, and the hope of renown are also elements in the character of civilized itie; but the development of these passions in a state of the development of these passions in a state of the development of these passions in a state of the development of these passions in a state of the development of the progress of her citizens, from the foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in a state of the development of the progress of her citizens, from the foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in the character of civilized title; but the great of the progress of her citizens, from the sample districts, and in to country, and so continued down through Homer. Herotoutous of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in the work of the manner in which they will exhibit the themselves in a cultivated period of society.

And so it is of religious sentiment and feeling. I before the sample of the progress of her citizens, from the foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in the work of the time of Livy and Sallust, in the control of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in the country, and so continued down through Homer. Herotoutous of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public went down the object of the manner in the work of the manner in the control of society.

We know, indeed, something of the private pursuits and the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public wents and their dates, such foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public wents commented to the cortext of the time, of public wents and their dates, such foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public wents and their dates, such foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public wents and their dates, such foundation of the city to the time of Livy and Sallust, in time, of public wents and their dates, such founda not to be mistaken; he not only has episodes, like the long one about Egypt, and formal speeches, which were com-mon in historical works till the sixteenth century of our era, and have not been unknown since; but he has dia-

> One of his series of speeches, which partakes of the character of a dialogue, shows a remarkable advancement in political knowledge for the age of Pericles. I mean that in which the conspirators against the Magi of Persia, previously to the elevation of Darius, discuss the different forms of government, much in the spirit of Montesquieu. But all these things are kept in their proper places by Herodotus. He feels the connexion of his subject all the way through; how one event proceeds from another, and how all tends to the principal result or contributes to it directly.

> In Thucydides the art of history is further advanced, though he lived very little later than Herodotus, and pro-bably had read or heard his history, though that is

Thucydides did not, indeed, make one whole of his work Trucyclides did not, indeed, make one whole of his work, for he did not survive the war whose history he undertook to relate; but he is less credulous than Herodotus; he has no proper dialogue; he is more compact; he indulges very little in episodes; he draws characters, and his speeches are more like formal, stately discussions. And he says of them, they are such as he either heard himself, or receiv-

them, they are such as he either heard himself, or received from those who did hear them; and he states that he gives them in their true substance.

There is nothing to create a doubt that personally he heard the oration of Perioles; and it is remarkable that, throughout the most flourishing period of Greek literature, both poetical and historical, productions were composed to be heard, rather than to be read; and the practice of the state of tice of listening to their rehearsals led the Greek people to attain great accuracy as well as retentiveness of me-

lory. In short, Herodotus's work seems a natural, fresh production of the soil; that of Thucydides belongs to a more advanced state of culture. Quintilian says of the former, In Herodoto omnia leniter fluunt; of the latter, Densus et brevis et semper instans sibi. Xenophon, in his Hellenica, continues Thucydides. He was a military leader, and familiar with the affairs of State; and, though not so deep a miliar with the affairs of State; and, though not so deep a thinker, was a more graceful and easy writer. Polybius, living in a much later period, is defective in style, but is a wise and sensible author. His object is not merely to show what has been, but to attempt the instruction of the future—making his work what he calls a demonstrative history, fitted for the use of statesmen. He is the last of the thinker, was a more graceful and easy writer. Polybius, living in a much later period, is defective in style, but is a wise and sensible author. His object is not merely to really good Greek historians.

The Romans had the great Greek masters in prose and

poetry all before them, and imitated them in every thing, but approached their models nearly only in eloquence and history. Like the Greeks, too, they had early poetical

ness, purity, and precision of his style are as characteristic of him as any of his great achievements.

Sallust went more upon Greek models. Each of his two remaining histories is an epic whole; short, indeed, but complete; fashioned with the greatest exactness; and inspired with a dignity and stateliness of style which Cæsar did not seek, and which would not have been fitting for his excess meaning. been fitting for his personal memoirs.

Livy had another purpose; there is an epic complete-

in his great work, though that work has come down to us in a mutilated state. Majestas populi Romani was his subject, and he sacrifices much to it; even, not unfrequently, the rigor of truth. His style is rich and flowing; some one speaks of Livii lactea ubertas. His descriptions are excellent; indeed, there is a nobleness and grandeur about his whole work well fitted to his mag-

ifficent purpose in writing it.

Tacitus comes later, when he could no longer feel so proud of his country as Livy had done. He had all the spirit and the power of Thucydides. Both were great, upright men, dissatisfied with their times; the one, beupright men, dissatisfied with their times; the one, because of the ascendency of demagogues among the people; the other with the imperial vices and the growing demoralization of his age. Tacitus is, however, free from passion, and is a wise, statesmanlike, and profound writer throughout. Of both his history and annals large portions are lost. We cannot, therefore, tell how much of completeness and proportion there may have been in either. But the nature of the period he discusses in each—a period, as he says "onimum casilus, atrox each—a period, as he says "opimum casibus, atrox præliis, discors, seditionibus, ipsa etiam pace sævum" knowledge, and yet it has been thought that some de-gree of falling off in the purity and elegance of the Latin historical style is discernible in his pages.

Cultivated by the recitation of poetical compositions on a great variety of religious and festive occasions.

It was not until the legislation of Solon had laid the

Of the old Roman writers, my preference is strongly or Sallust. I admire his reach of thought, his clearness of style, as well as his accuracy of narration. He is sufficiently style, as well as his accuracy of narration. He is sufficiently concise: he is sententious without being meager or obscure, and his power of personal and individual description is remarkable. There are, indeed, in his style some roughnesses belonging to the Roman tongue at an earlier age, but they seem to strengthen the structure of his sentences without especially injuring their beauty. No character-drawing can well exceed his delineation of Catiline, his account of Jugurtha, or his parallel between Cæsar and Cato. I have thought, sometimes, that I saw resemblances between his terse and powerful periods and the remarks and sayings of Dr. Johnson, as they appear, not in his stately performances, but in the record of versations by Boswell.

In turning to peruse once more the pages of Sallust, to refresh myself for the preparation of this address, I was struck by the coincidence of a transaction narrated him with one which we have seen very recently in our wn country.

When Jugurtha had put to death Hiempsal and expelled Adherbal from his rightful throne, the latter, who was born in Numidia, and not in Hungary, came to Rome to nvoke what we should call the intervention of the Roman people. His speech delivered on that occasion in the Senate, as Sallust has given it, is one of the most touching ever made by a man in misfortune and suffering from in-jury, to those having the power of granting relief or redress. His supplication to the Senate is founded on the broad and general idea that the Roman people were just themselves, and, as they had the power, so it was their duty to prevent or punish high-handed injustice threatened or inflicted by others.

ened or inflicted by others.

"Sed quoniam parum tuta per se ipsa probitas, neque mihi in manu fuit, Jugurtha qualis foret; ad vos confugi, patres conscripti, quibus, quod misserrimum, cogor prius oneri, quam usui esse. Ceteri reges aut bello vieti in amicitiam a vobis recepti, aut in suis dubus rebus societatem vestram appetiverunt; familia nostra cum populo Romano bello Carthaginiensi amicitiam instituit; quo tempore magis fides ejus, quam fortuna petenda erat. Quorum progeniem vos, patres conscripti, nolite pati frustra a vobis auxilium petere. Si ad impetrandum nibil, causa haberem, præter miserandam fortunam; quod paulo ante rex, genere, fama atque copiis potens nunc deformatus seruminis, inops, allenas opes expecto; tamen evat majestus wrutanis, inops, alienas opes expecto: tamen erat maje is Romani populi prohibere injuriam neque pati cujusqua tamen erat majes

tatis Romani populi problère injuriam neque pati cujusquam regnum per scelus crescere.

"Quid agam? quo potissimum infelix accedam? Generis præsidia omnia, exatincta sunt: pater, uti necesse erat, natura concessit; fratri, quem minime decuit, propinquus per scelus vitam eripuit; affines, amicos, propinquos ceteros, alium alia clades oppressit; capti ab Jugurtha, pars in crucem acti, pars bestiis objecti; panci quibus relicta anima, clausi in tenebris, cum morore et luctu, morte, graviorem, vitam exigunt. Si omnia, que aut amisi, aut ex necessariis adversa facta sunt incolumia manerent; tamen, si quid ex improviso accidisset, vos implorarem, patres conseripti, quibus, pro magnitudine imperii, jus et injurias omnes curæ esse decet. Nunc vero exsul patriadomo, solos et omnium honestarum rerum egens, quo accedam, aut quos appellem? nationes ne, an reges, qui omnes familia nostrae ob vestram amicitiam infesti sunt? an quoquam adire licet, ubi non majorum meorum hostilia monumenta plurima sint? ant quisquam nostri misereri potest, qui aliquando vobis hostis fait?

"At ego infelix, in tanta mala præcipitatus ex patrio regno, and content of the same period in human affairs no more renders another history of the same period in human affairs no more renders another history of the same period in character of individuals.

Therefore one history of the same period in human affairs no more renders another histories of one temple forbids the erection of another, or one statue of the same periods at the fars no more renders another histories on more renders another histories on more familia restructure of or exidus deservations and the fars no more renders another histories of more renders another histories of more renders another histories of the same period fars no more renders another histories another histories of the same period fars no more renders anoth

aliquando vobis hostis fnit?

"At ego infelix, in tanta mala praecipitatus ex patrio regno, rerum humanarum spectaculum præbeo; incertus quid agam tans ne injurias persequar, ipse auxilii egens; an regno consulam, cujus vitæ necisque potestas ex opibus alienis pendet. Utinam emori fortunis meis honestus exitus ceset, neu vivere contemptus viderer, si defessas malis, injurias consessissem; nuno neque vivere libet, neque mori licet sine dedecore. Patres conscripti, per vos, per liberos atque parentes vestros, per majestatem pepuli Romani, subvenite misero mihi; ite obviam injuriae, nolite pati regnum Numidiæ, per seclus et sanguinem familae nostræ tabescere."

While I confess myself not competent to sit in judgment while I confess myself not competent to sit in judgment on the great masters of Roman story, still it has always struck me that in the style of Livy there was so much fulness, so much accumulation of chromstance, as occasionally tended to targidity. I speak this, however, with the greatest degree of diffidence. Livy seems to me like the rivers under the influence of copious spring freshets, when not only is the main channel full, but all the tributary streams are tending to overflow; while Sallust, I think, takes care only that there shall be one deep, clear, strong, and rapid current to convey him and his thoughts.

To noon he fell, from noon to dewy eve,
A summer's day; and with the setting sun
Dropt from the senith like a falling star
On Lemma the Ægean isle."

His description of vocal music in the Allegro is anoth

"And ever against eating cares,
Lap me in soft Lydian airs,
Married to immortal verse,
Such as the melting soul may pierce,
In notes, with many a winding bout
Of linked sweetness long drawn out,
With wanton heed and giddy cunning,
The melting voice through mazes running,
Untwisting all the chains that tie
The hidden soul of harmony.
That Orpheus' self may heave his head
From golden slumber, on a bed
Of heap'd Elysian flowers, and hear
Such strains as would have won the ear
Of Pluto, to have quite set free
His half-regained Eurydice."
rdly know any thing which surpasses these ex

I hardly know any thing which surpasses these exquisite lines, so poetical, and at the same time so thoroughly and absolutely English, and so free from all foreign idiom. The first three stanzas of Grey's "Elegy in a Country hurch Yard" are also remarkable for the power and accuracy with which rural scenery is presented by group-ing together many objects in one picture.

Another poetical instance of the same beauty is the "Burial of Sir John Moore."

There are remarkable instances of the same skill in

rhere are remarkable instances of the same skill in writing in some of the English prose writers, and especially in the productions of Daniel De Foe. No boy doubts that every thing told of Robinson Crusoe is exactly true, because all is so circumstantially told; and no man doubts, until he is informed of the contrary, that the historian of the plague of London actually saw all that he described, although De Foe was not born till afterward.

It is a well-known saying, that the lie with circumstance is exceedingly calculated to deceive, and that is true; and it is equally true, not only that fictitious history gains credit and belief by the skilful use of circumstance, but that true history also may derive much additional interest from the same source.

interest from the same source.

In general, however, historical facts are to be related with rather a close and exclusive regard to such, and

is no history, in the high sense of that term. The banks of the Nile were crowded with historical monuments and memorials, stretching back into the remotest antiquity; and recent researches have discovered historical records of the Pharaohs in the scrolls of papyrus, some of them

history. Like the Greeks, too, they had early poetical listories, histories, histories, songs, &c. Ennius wrote a sort of epic history of Rome. Cuesar, one of the most distinguished of all great men, wrote accounts of what he had done, or what related directly to himself. The clearness, purity, and precision of his style are as characteristic. I remember when I thought it the greatest wonder in the ordinary legends, long preceded historical composition. I remember when I thought it the greatest wonder in the world that the poems of Homer should have been written at a period so remote that the earliest Grecian history should have given no account of their author. I did not then know, or had not then considered their particular with then know, or had not then considered, that poetical writings, hymns, songs, accounts of personal adventures, like those of Hercules and Jason, were, in the nature of things, earlier than regular historical narratives. Herodotus in-forms us that Homer lived four hundred years before his time. There is, nevertheless, something very wonderful in the poems of Homer.

their earlier ages, they contain the substantial bone and sinew characteristic of their idiom, yet that they are rough, imperfect, and without polish. Thus Chaucer wrote English, but it is what we call old English, and it has not the and spenser wrote English, and it has not the smoothness and fluency belonging to the style of Pope and Addison. And Spenser wrote English, but, though rich and gorgeous, it has not the precision and accuracy of those later writers. It would seem that many books must be written and read, and a great many tongues and pensemployed, before the language of a country reaches its highest polish and perfection. Now, the wonder is how a language should become so perfect as was the Greek of Homer, at the time when that language could have been Homer, at the time when that language could have been very little written. Doubtless in succeeding ages the compass of the Greek tongue was enlarged as knowledge became more extended, and new things called for new words; but within the compass of Grecian knowledge, as it existed in the time of Homer, it can scarcely be questioned that the style of Homer is quite as perfect and poforbade poetical ornament, not less than the severity of his own nature. In character drawing he is hardly excelled by any one. By a single dash of his pencil he sometimes throws out a likeness which all feel and active the syle of homer is quite as perfect and policies of his successors. The cause of this his own nature. In character drawing he is hardly excelled by any one. By a single dash of his pencil he spoken for many centuries, by a people of great ingenuity and extraordinary good taste, but had been carefully

foundation of free political institutions, and these institutions had unfolded a free and powerful and active political life in the Athenian Republic; until the discussion of public affairs, in the Senate and the popular Assembly, had created deliberative eloquence; and the open administration of justice in the courts, and under the laws established by Solon, had applied to the transactions be-tween the citizens all the resources of refined logic, and drawn into the sphere of civil rights and obligations the power of high forensic oratory—it was not until these results of the legislative wisdom of Solon had been attained, that the art of history rose and flourished in Greece. With the decline of Grecian liberty began the decline in the art of historical composition. Histories were written under the Grecian kings of Egypt, and a long line of writers flourished under the Byzantine emperors; but the high art of historical composition, as perfected in the master works of Herodotus, Thucydides, and Xenophon, had per-ished in the death of political freedom.

The origin, progress, and decline of history, as an art, were nearly the same in Rome. Sallust and Livy flourished at the close of the Republic and the commencement of the Empire. The great works of Tacitus himself are thought by many to betray the beginning of decline in the art, and the later writers exhibit its fall.

The art of history again revived with the rise of the Italian Republics; and since the revival of literature, at the close of the middle ages, it will probably be found that three things naturally rise into importance together, that is to say, civil liberty, eloquence, and the art of historical

writing.
Other foundation is not to be laid for authentic history than well-authenticated facts; but on this foundation structures may be raised of different characteristics, his-torical, biographical, and philosophical. One writer may confine himself to exact and minute narration; another, rue to the general story, may embellish that story with more or less of external ornament, or of eloquence in de-scription; a third, with a deeper philosophical spirit, may look into the causes of events and transactions, trace them with more profound research to their sources in the elements of human nature, or consider and solve, with

nore or less success, that most important question, how far the character of individuals has produced public events, or how far, on the other hand, public events have produced and formed the character of individuals.

Therefore one history of the same period in human affairs no more renders another history of the same period useless or unadvisable than the structure of one temple forbids the erection of another, or one statue of Hercules, Apollo, or Pericles should suppress all other attempts to produce statues of the same persons.

wn country.

Works have been written upon the history of the United States, other works upon the same subject are in progress, and, no doubt, new works are contemplated, and will be

accomplished.

It need not be doubted that what has been achieved by the great men who have preceded our generation will properly recorded by their successors. A country in which highly interesting events occur is not likely to be desti-tute of scholars and authors fit to transmitthose events to posterity. For the present, I content myself with a few

time.

To avoid dealing with events too recent, it might be well to consider the third era or epoch as terminating with the close of President Washington's administration, and going back into the second so far as to trace the events and occurrences which showed the necessity of a general government, different from that framed by the articles of confederation, which prepared the minds of the people for the adoption of the present constitution. No doubt the assembly of the first Continental Congress may be regarded as the era at which the Union of these States commenced. This event took places in Philadelphia the city. commenced. This event took place in Philadelphia, the city distinguished by the great civil events of our early history, on the 5th of September, 1774, on which day the first Continental Congress assembled. Delegates were present from New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, and

leorgia.

Let this day be ever remembered! It saw assembled Let this day be ever remembered: It saw assertion the several colonies those great men whose names have come down to us, and will descend to all posterity. Their proceedings are remarkable for simplicity, dignity, and unequalled ability. At that day, probably, there could have been convened on no part of this globe an equal number of men possessing greater talents and could have been convened on no part of this globe an equal number of men possessing greater talents and ability, or animated by a higher and more patriotic motive. They were men full of the spirit of the occasion, imbued deeply with the general sentiment of the country, of large comprehension, of long foresight, and of few words. They made no speeches for ostentation, they sat with closed doors, and their great maxim was "faire sans dire." It is true, they only wrote; but the issuing of such writings, on such authority, and at such a crisis, was action—high, decisive, national action. They knew the history of the past, they were alive to all the difficulties and all the duties of the present, and they acted from the first as if the future were all open before them. Peyton Randolph was unanimously chosen president; Charles Thompson was appointed secretary. In such a constellation, it would be invidious to point out the bright particular stars. Let me only say, what none can consider injustice to others, that George Washington was one of the number.

The proceedings of the Assembly were introduced by religious observances, and devout supplications to the Throne of Grace for the inspiration of wisdom and the

Throne of Grace for the inspiration of wisdom and the spirit of good counsels.

On the second day of the session it was ordered that a committee should be appointed to state the rights of the colonies, the instances in which those rights had been violated, and the means proper to be pursued for their restoration; and another committee to examine and report upon the several statutes of the English Parliament which had been passed affecting, the trade and manufactures of the colonies. The members of these committees were chosen on the following day. Immediately afterward Congress took up, as the foundation of their proceedings, certain resolutions, adopted, just before the time of their assembling, by delegates from towns in the county of Suffolk, and especially the town of Boston.

Boston, the early victim of the infliction of wrong by the mother country, the early champion of American lib-

the mother country, the early champion of American liberty; Boston, though in this vast country she may be now erty; Boston, though in this vast country she may be now surpassed by other cities in numbers, in commerce, and wealth, yet she cannot be surpassed in the renown of her early revolutionary history. She will stand acknowledged, while the world! doth stand, as the origin and ornament, promoter and defender of the rights of the colonies. The English crown frowned upon her with severity and indignation; it only made her stand more erect, and put on a face of greater boldness and defiance. The Parliament poured upon her all its indignation. It only held her up with greater illumination, and drew toward her the greater attachment and veneration of the country. Boston, as she was in heart, in principle, and feeling in 1774, so may she remain till her three hills shall sink into the sea and be no more remembered among men.

remain till her three hills shall sink into the sea and be no more remembered among men.

Gentlemen, these early proceedings of the citizens of Boston and other inhabitants of the county of Suffolk deserve to be written where all posterity may read them. They were carried to the representative of royalty by the first distinguished martyr in the cause of liberty, Joseph Warren. How fit that he who was not long afterward to fall in the defence of the liberty of his country, and to seal his love of that country with his blood, full of its spirit and its principles, should be the bearer of its remonstrances to the representative of the throne of England! No encomium, no eulogy upon the State of which I have the honor to be a citizen, can exceed that which is expressed in the unanimous resolution of the first American Congress of the 8th of October, 1774, in these words:

"Resolved, That this Congress approve the opposition of the

"Resolved, That this Congress approve the opposition of the people of Massachusetts Bay to the execution of the late acts of Parliament; and if the same shall be attended to be carried into execution by force, in such case all America ought to support them in their opposition." Gentlemen, I will not believe that the ancient common

wealth of Massachusetts can ever depart from her truweath of Massachusetts can ever depart from her true character. I think it impossible. But should she be left to forgetfulness of herself, and all that belongs to her; should she temporarily or permanently stray away from the paths of her ancient patriotism; should she, which Heaven avert, be willing to throw off her original and all-American mantle—to disrobe herself, in the presence of the world, of all her nationality of character, there are others who would eagerly seize that mantle, and who would show themselves capable of wearing it with grace, dignity, and power. I need not say here where those others are to be found. I am in the city in which Washington first took upon himself the administration of the Government; I am near the spot on which all hearts and all hopes were concentrated in 1789. I bring the whole scene, deep interests, before me. I see the crowds that fill and throng the streets; I see the ten thousand faces, afxious to look on him to whose wisdom, prudence, and patriotism the destinies of the country are committed. I see the august form, I behold the screne face of Washington; I observe his reverent manner, when he rises, in the presence of a countless multitude, and, looking up with religious awe to heaven, solemnly swears, before that multitudinous assembly, and before Him that sitteth on the circle of the heavens, that he will support the constitution of country—so help him God!

And I hear the shouts and acclamations that fill the air; I see outpouring tears of joy and hope; I see men clasping each other's hands, and I hear them exclaim, "We have at last a country; we have a Union; and in that Union is strength. We have a Government able to keep us together; and we have a Chief Magistrate, an object of confidence, attachment, and love to us all."

Citizens of New York, men of this generation, is there

any thing which warms your heart more than these resollections? Or can you contemplate the unparalleled growth of your city in population, and all human blessings, without feeling that the spot is hallowed, and the hour consecrated, where and when your career of prosperity and happiness began?

happiness began?

But, gentlemen, my heart would sink within me, and voice and speech would depart from me, if I were compelled to believe that your fidelity to the constitution of the country, signal and unquestioned as it is, could ever exceed that of the State whose soil was moistened by the blood of the first martyrs in the cause of liberty, and whose history has been characterized from the beginning by their zealous and uniform support of the principles of Washington. by their zealou. Washington. This first Congress sat from the fifth day of September

This first Congress sat from the fifth day of September until the twenty-sixth of October, and it these dissolved. Its whole proceedings are embraced in forty-nine pages, but these few pages contain the substance and the original form and pressure of our American aberty. Its principal papers are, an address to the people of Great Britain, written by John Jay; a memorial to the inhabitants of the British colonies, written by Whiam Livingston; an address to the King, written by John Adams, corrected by John Dickinson; and an address to the inhabitants of Quebec, written by John Dickinson.*

There is one resolution of the ald Congress, adopted on the 14th of March, 1776, which has never received so much attention as it deserves. It is in these words:

much attention as it deserves. It is in these words: " In Congress, March 14, 1776.

"Resolved, That it be recommended to the several assemblies, conventions, councils, or committees of safety, immediately to cause all persons to be disarmed within their respective colonics who are notoriously disaffected to the cause of America, or who have not associated and refuse to associate to defend by arms the United Colonics against the hostile attempts of the British fleets and armies. Extract from the minutes:
"CRARLES TROMPSON, Secretary." Several of the Governors of the States, conventions,

Several of the Governors of the States, convenience, councils, or committees of safety, took immediate measures for carrying this resolution into effect. The proceedings, in consequence of it, have been preserved, however, only in a few States. The fullest returns which can be found are believed to be from New Hampshire and New York. The form was a recital of the re

the history of separate communities and governments, with different laws and institutions, though all were of a common origin; not identical, indeed, though having a strong family resemblance, and having more or less reference to the constitution and common law of the parent country.

In all these Governments the principle of popular re-